

that the section should stand precisely as it is, without even the amendment which I have had the honor to present; and I will therefore withdraw that amendment. We are now forming a portion of the Constitution, which has reference not to the elective franchise, not to political rights, not to the office of Governor, or any office of a mere political character; but to a judgeship, which the gentleman himself would have as far removed from all political considerations as possible, which he himself agrees ought not to be thrown open to the whole community at large. In this very bill it is confined to members of the bar. That may be said to be anti-republican.

Why should not every man be a judge, whether a member of the bar or not, whether learned in the law or not? Because if this was to become the practice, the judicial department would fall into just disrepute, and would receive the sneers and the scorn of the world, and would become justly unpopular. Every man would be indignant at such a proposition as that. While we would not take away the right of suffrage from the naturalized citizen, we might, without any inconsistency at all, and without any attack upon any man's republican notions, say that he should not be chosen to construe our laws, until he shall have been here long enough to understand them. I think it is a wholesome guard, with no odiousness whatever, upon its face, no unjust discrimination in the letter of the law, and none intended or practically resulting from its operation.

Again, if you should pass the judiciary bill, with a provision allowing foreigners, who are not citizens of the State, to be put upon your bench, I suppose that this might have a wonderful influence in the city of Baltimore, and perhaps all over the State, in the vote upon the adoption of the Constitution. A great many would vote against the Constitution on that very ground.

Mr. DORSEY. I think the people would prefer the Constitution on that very ground. If an alien should come here to-morrow, when he has had the requisite residence, he may be a judge under the Constitution as it now stands; and do you think the people would reject a Constitution which requires five years residence, in order to go back to one which equally throws open the way to the admission of an alien judge?

Mr. HOWARD. If the gentleman from Prince George's withdraws the amendment he proposed just now, I will renew it at the proper time. The Constitution of the United States provides that the citizen of one State shall be entitled to all the privileges of citizens of the other States. We know that that clause once gave rise to very great debates, and some exceedingly interesting questions arose. Under the letter of that clause, it might be said that we could not exclude citizens from the other States from being entitled to the same privileges with the citizens of this State, and consequently citizens of other States, who have been here only six months, would be entitled to be eligible.

Mr. DORSEY. I will inform the gentleman from Baltimore county, that this question was discussed, during his absence, at great length;

and the Convention were of opinion, with some few exceptions, that the Constitution did not mean political rights; and that we had an unquestionable right of depriving naturalized citizens of holding any office whatever, as a member of the Legislature, or any other office; and that the citizen of another State had no political rights in framing our Constitution, and we had a right to exclude him as well as the naturalized citizen.

Mr. HOWARD. I will not press the amendment then.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I have some difficulty upon this subject. I am very much disposed to stand by my friend, the chairman of the committee, (Mr. Bowie,) with whom I concurred very much in the committee; but, nevertheless, I think he is somewhat mistaken, and I am obliged in candor so to say. Our friend on my left, [Mr. Dorsey,] did start, I think, with some hostility to the naturalized citizens; but he very soon became exceedingly liberal, so much so that I take pleasure in thanking him for coming into our ranks, and in congratulating the friends of the naturalized citizens for the very just services he has rendered them in this Convention. From the beginning to the present hour, I have been opposed to any distinction between the naturalized and the native born. I have been most particularly opposed to any distinction which was calculated to wound the feelings of the naturalized citizen. I have argued that question before, and do not intend to go over the ground again now. But my difficulty is this: If I understand the gentleman from Prince George's, there will be a distinction between the time of residence required in the State for the naturalized citizen, and the time required for the native born citizen. If there is, I shall vote against the section, as a matter of course.

If the object of the gentleman from Anne Arundel be to allow the naturalized citizen to become a judicial officer, after he has remained here the same length of time that is required of the native born citizen, then, of course, I shall vote for his amendment, in preference to the proposition of the honorable chairman of the committee. I desire no such distinction. I maintain that if a man comes into the State of Maryland, no matter where he comes from, whether from Germany, Hungary, or from Ireland—as one of my friends said just now, one of the chosen spots in the earth, a good deal desecrated by man, but blessed by God—let him come from whence he may, if he have sufficient intelligence to draw the attention of our people to him, in so far as to induce them to elect him a judicial officer, then, sir, he has intelligence enough to form a good opinion upon our institutions, and is perfectly fitted to be a judicial officer. Pursue the other course, and you may exclude from your bench some of the wisest and most distinguished men from other countries.

There are as distinguished lawyers in Ireland, and some other quarters of the world, as any in the United States. One of these comes here and takes up his abode in Maryland, full of legal knowledge, and with a view best to terminate his days. He dedicates his days and nights to the